



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
06.05.1999 Bulletin 1999/18

(43) Date of publication A2:
28.04.1999 Bulletin 1999/17

(21) Application number: **98122014.8**

(22) Date of filing: **02.12.1996**

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **C12N 15/10, C12N 15/64,
C12Q 1/68
// C07K14/435, C07K14/545,
C12N9/86, C12N9/38,
C12N15/52**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE**

(30) Priority: **30.11.1995 US 564955
25.03.1996 US 621859**

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC.
96940934.1 / 0 876 509

(71) Applicant: **Maxygen, Inc.**
Santa Clara, CA 95051 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Stemmer, Willem P.C.**
Los Gatos, CA 95030 (US)
• **Cramer, Andreas**
Mountain View, CA 94040 (US)

(74) Representative: **Irvine, Jonquil Claire**
J.A. KEMP & CO.
14 South Square
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5LX (GB)

(54) **Methods for generating polynucleotides having desired characteristics by iterative selective and recombination**

(57) The present invention relates to a method for evolving a polynucleotide encoding a plurality of genes, e.g. multiple genes forming a multicomponent pathway. The method involves shuffling of polynucleotides by conducting a polynucleotide amplification process on overlapping segments of a population of variants of a polynucleotide encoding a plurality of genes under conditions whereby one segment serves as a template for extension of another segment to generate a population of recombinant polynucleotides. This population is screened for a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a plurality of genes having a desired property.

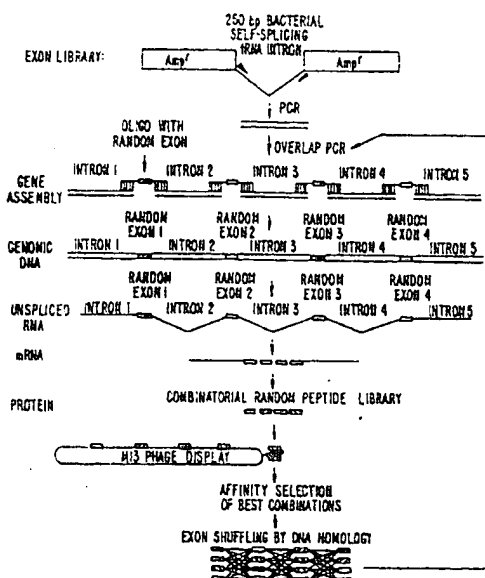


FIG. 20.

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Application Number
EP 98 12 2014

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